

Preliminary Amendment filed May 11, 2005  
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/641,144

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph in column 14, lines 6-20 with the following paragraph.

Since the affinity of N with Ti in the steel is extremely large, it should be considered that both of the N and Ti contents satisfy the following formula in order to make the effect of the addition of Ti definite.

$$\text{Ti}(\%) > (48/14)x\text{N}(\%)$$

The said formula becomes the following (b) for the steel containing Zr.

$$\text{Ti}(\%)-(48/14)x\{\text{N}(\%)-(14/91)x\text{Zr}(\%)\} > 0 \quad (\text{b})$$

O (oxygen):

O exists inevitably in steel as an impurity and deteriorates the toughness and SSC-resistance of the steel. The content should be restricted to not more than 0.01% the same as N, and the less the better.